

THE ATARI® 810™ DISK DRIVE

THE ATARI® 800™ COMPUTER SYSTEM



OWNER'S GUIDE



A Warner Communications Company 

CAUTION!

The door on the ATARI® 810™ Disk Drive unit should be kept CLOSED when moving the unit. This will help protect the delicate internal mechanisms from damage.



ATARI, INC.
CONSUMER DIVISION
1265 Borregas Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086



PRODUCT UPDATE

ATARI HOME COMPUTER SYSTEM

ATARI® 810™ DISK DRIVE PRODUCT UPDATE

As you may have noticed, your ATARI 810 Disk Drive looks slightly different than that shown on the box and in the manual. To fulfill increased demand for this product, we are now utilizing two front panels for the ATARI 810 Disk Drive.

All ATARI 810 Disk Drives perform to the same high standards. We've gone to great lengths to assure that they are completely compatible—that they read and write to the same diskettes, use the same Disk Operating System, and perform identically in use with other ATARI Home Computer products.

Your new disk drive does not have an eject button since the door opening design makes it easy to insert and remove diskettes. To do so, simply lift the tab, insert or remove the diskette, then lower the tab to its original position.



With the addition of the ATARI 810™ Disk Drive to your ATARI Home Computer, you have greatly increased the efficiency of your system. Several individual files can be stored on a diskette and each file can be accessed directly, by name. The disk drive transfers data to your computer much faster than the ATARI 410™ Program Recorder.

Your ATARI 810 Disk Drive is simple to connect and easy to use. Follow the step-by-step instructions on the following pages.

CONNECTING YOUR ATARI 810 DISK DRIVE

1 Turn off the power to all parts of your computer system.



2 Plug the AC Power Adapter into the wall socket. Plug the smaller end into the hole marked PWR on the back of the disk drive.



3 Plug one end of the I/O Data Cord into the jack on the side of the computer console marked PERIPHERAL. Plug the other end into one of the jacks marked I/O CONNECTORS on the back of the disk drive. If you have an ATARI 410 Program Recorder, plug it into the remaining I/O CONNECTOR jack.



Since your television creates a strong magnetic field, your ATARI 810 Disk Drive should be placed as far away from it as possible. This will help protect the magnetic head in the disk drive from losing its sensitivity.

4 Turn on the disk drive. When the red BUSY light goes off, open the door to the disk drive by pushing the rectangular button to the left of the ATARI 810 label.



5 Insert the diskette you want to use and close the disk drive door.



6 Turn on the computer. If you're using the ATARI BASIC cartridge, your disk drive is ready for use when the READY prompt appears on the screen. If you're using a cartridge or program other than ATARI BASIC, read the instructions for that program to find out how to use it with your disk drive.

CONNECTING MORE THAN ONE DISK DRIVE

You can attach up to four ATARI 810 Disk Drives, as well as other components, to your ATARI Home Computer. Disk drives and the Program Recorder are connected to each other in a "daisy chain" using the data cords supplied with each component.

You may have noticed that there are two I/O CONNECTOR jacks on the back of each disk drive. To install multiple drives, connect a data cord from the I/O CONNECTOR of the first disk drive to the I/O CONNECTOR of

the computer console. Then connect the next disk drive by running a data cord from it to the remaining I/O CONNECTOR on the first.



If you have more than one ATARI 810 Disk Drive, you must set two small switches on each disk drive so that the computer knows which drive you are referring to in your programs or commands. You must always have one disk drive in the chain set as Drive 1.

1 Turn off the power to the disk drive, then turn the disk drive so that you are looking at the back of it.



2 Using a pen or a screwdriver, set the Drive Code No. switches to match the Drive Code number shown in the diagrams. Set Disk Drive 2 to match DRIVE No. 2, etc.



TAKING CARE OF YOUR DISKETTES

The recording surface of a diskette is similar to the recording surface on a program cassette. Each is coated with a magnetic material that stores your data. Careful handling and storage of your diskettes ensures longer life.

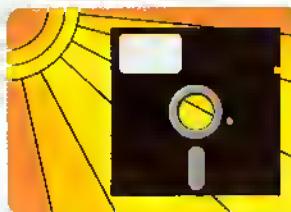
Diskettes are enclosed in a black envelope. Most diskettes have a small notch in the edge, called the "write-protect notch." By covering this notch with the rectangular tabs provided by the manufacturer, you can prevent any accidental computer operations that might destroy the data on the diskette.



Do not use pencil erasers on diskette labels. Eraser dust is abrasive and will damage the diskette.



Do not write on your diskettes with a pencil or a ball-point pen. The sharp point of a pencil or ball-point pen can score the surface of the diskette. Use a felt-tip pen to mark the diskette label or write on the label before you put it on the diskette.



Do not store your diskettes in direct sunlight. Keep them away from any excessive heat.



Do not bend your diskettes; they must turn freely in the protective envelope. Handle them with care when loading or unloading.



Because the diskette turns inside the envelope, damage to the envelope can result in damage to the diskette.



Store your diskettes away from your television set. The strong magnetic fields produced by the television can partially erase the data stored. Keep your diskettes away from electrical devices (as well as the telephone).



Never wet or wash a diskette. Use a soft brush or compressed air from a spray can to remove any dust from the surface.



Store each diskette in its paper sleeve and store them standing on edge to prevent damage to the magnetic surface.



Never touch the diskette where it is exposed through the diskette envelope. Fingerprints can damage the magnetic medium.



Do not attach paper clips to your diskettes.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

The ATARI Home Computer System is designed for modular expansion. All ATARI peripheral devices plug together quickly, making it easy to get the new addition to your system on-line and functioning. This means that your system can grow as your needs grow.

ATARI 810 DISK DRIVE

Now that you have purchased one disk drive, why would you need more? You'll find that additional disk drives in your system increase the amount of data you can store and retrieve quickly. A second disk drive makes it much easier to make backup files by directly duplicating your Master Diskette or file without first loading the file into computer memory.



ATARI 850™ INTERFACE MODULE

The ATARI 830™ Acoustic Modem and the ATARI 825™ 80-Column Printer connect to your ATARI Home Computer through the ATARI 850 Interface Module. The interface module offers four programmable serial interface ports (compatible with the industry standard RS-232-C) and a Centronics-type parallel port.

ATARI MEMORY MODULES™

The memory of the ATARI 800 Home Computer can be easily expanded (up to 48K of RAM) with the addition of ATARI Memory Modules. These modules are easily installed in the slots behind your existing 10K ROM Memory Module.

ATARI 830™ ACOUSTIC MODEM

The acoustic modem gives you access to local and national data bases and data base networks through your telephone. You can even communicate with another ATARI Home Computer user. The ATARI 850 Interface Module is required to connect the modem to your system.



ATARI 410™ PROGRAM RECORDER

As with the disk drive, you can store and retrieve data or programs on cassette tape using the ATARI 410 Program Recorder. Because of the inexpensive cost, many programs are sold on cassette. The Program Recorder also has an audio track that can be used to record music or verbal program instructions that are played back while your program is loading.



ATARI 822™ THERMAL PRINTER

This quiet and compact 40-column printer has a bidirectional print head that allows it to print in both directions. It prints 5 x 7 dot-matrix characters on thermal paper. The ATARI 822 Thermal Printer can be connected directly to your computer console.



ATARI 825™ 80-COLUMN PRINTER

The 80-column printer prints a line up to eight inches in length in four different character modes. It is a dot-matrix impact printer that can be programmed by your computer to produce half spacing, underlining, and justified right (flush right) margins. The printer uses roll paper, fanfold (including three-part forms), or single sheets. The ATARI 825 Printer also requires the ATARI 850 Interface Module.



Now that you have installed your new ATARI 810 Disk Drive, you'll want to begin using it right away. Although connecting the disk drive is relatively simple, you'll find that learning to use it takes a bit longer.

Included with your disk drive is a Master Diskette II. This diskette contains a program called the Disk Operating System, or DOS. Although DOS is not a complicated program, it does take a bit of practice before you will feel comfortable with it. To help you get going as quickly as possible, we have included two books about DOS: one is an introductory book; the other is a detailed reference manual.



An Introduction to the Disk Operating System is for first-time users. It explains what DOS is and how to use its most important features. Once you have read this book and followed the examples, you'll be able to use many DOS functions such as saving and loading programs, making copies of programs, deleting programs from a diskette, and copying entire diskettes.

The Disk Operating System II Reference Manual is a far more detailed and extensive explanation of DOS. It will be easier to understand if you have read the other book first. Not only does the reference manual cover all of the DOS functions, but it does so in much greater detail. The reference manual also contains a wealth of information of particular interest to serious programmers.



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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the product documentation in this manual. However, because ATARI, INC. is constantly improving and updating the computer software and hardware, we are unable to guarantee the accuracy of the printed material, or accept responsibility for errors or omissions after the date of publication.

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